

**Amendments to the abstract:**

Please add the following abstract at the end of the specification on a separate sheet:

ABSTRACT

The present invention discloses novel genes encoding novel syntaxin interacting proteins, vectors and host cells comprising the novel genes, assays for identifying compounds that interfere with the interaction between a syntaxin interacting protein and its ligand, and diagnostic and therapeutic methods for using the novel genes, polypeptides, and antibodies to the polypeptides.